

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Farr APC

Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions

Camfil Farr Ends a Strong Year with Successful Lean Manufacturing and Kaizen Implementation

Client Profile:

Camfil Farr, Inc. (Farr) is a manufacturer of air filtration systems, producing industrial dust and mist collection equipment used in the clean up of manufacturing processes. The company currently employs 50 people at their Jonesboro, Arkansas, facility.

Situation:

In response to global pressures, Farr sought ways in which to cut/control costs without jeopardizing quality and service. The challenges and opportunities for the future included reducing lead times for faster turnarounds, maintaining ISO 9000 certification, coaching and mentoring team members in Lean Manufacturing concepts, establishing standard work to help reduce assembly time and reducing machine setup times. The company requested assistance from Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions (AMS), a NIST MEP network affiliate.

Solution:

In August of 2004, AMS Project Managers met with Farr Operations Manager, Al Baker. Subsequent to the meeting and plant tour, a proposal was developed to cover specific Lean Manufacturing training and implementation services that would support the company's continuous improvement efforts. The plan consisted of an introductory Principles of Lean Manufacturing seminar during which time the team learned about the 8 Wastes of Lean, along with the Tools of Lean and how they can be applied. Next, the concepts of Value Stream Mapping were presented to the team. Following the VSM training, the AMS team facilitated Farr in the development of their Current and Future State Maps, along with associated Implementation Plans. From the Implementation Plan, a series of Kaizen Events (including 5S and Setup Reduction) were conducted.

Results:

- * Doubled sales in 2006.
- * Created 20 new jobs.
- * Reduced inventory by \$500,000.
- * Increased work center efficiencies by 10 percent.
- * Reduced lead time from 4 weeks to 2 weeks.
- * Passed ISO 9000 surveillance audit with no deficiencies.

Testimonial:

"Through the training of key employees, we now have a better educated work force in regards to the fundamentals of a manufacturing environment. Our employees are better equipped to lead their departments and achieve higher standards. I would like to thank the AMS team for their efforts. It was

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a pleasure to work with you, and I hope to continue our relationship in the future."

Al Baker , Plant Manager